President's Research Awards Given to Three Biomedical Faculty Members

The University of South Dakota has awarded grants for outstanding research to three biomedical faculty members who were chosen by external reviewers for their research accomplishments, publications and grant success. The 2016 award recipients each receive a $3,000 grant and a plaque. To read more about their work, visit www.usd.edu/news.

President's Award for Research Excellence: New-Mid Career Faculty
Hongli Sun, Ph.D.

An assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Sun's research is focused on developing novel nano-biomaterials-based strategies for bone repair. As a junior faculty, Sun has authored several articles in the leading journals of the field, and his work has been highly appreciated by his peers. He also actively serves as a manuscript and grant reviewer for many peer-reviewed journals, conferences and funding agencies. His research is currently funded by South Dakota Board of Regents, S. T. Li Foundation and NSF EPSCoR (BioSNTR).

President’s Award for Research Excellence: Established Faculty
Gina Forster, Ph.D.

Forster is a professor in the Department of Basic Biomedical Sciences. Her research focuses on understanding the neurobiology of anxiety, and how factors such as early life stress, substance use and traumatic brain injury affect brain function to produce anxiety states.

President’s Award for Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Victor Huber, Ph.D.

Huber, associate professor in the Department of Basic Biomedical Sciences, studies host immune responses against influenza viruses, particularly those associated with vaccine-induced immunity and susceptibility to secondary bacterial infections. The goal of this research is to develop vaccines and therapeutics that can be used to limit deaths associated with these infections.
Memorial Service to Honor Body Donors and Families

The University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences and Sanford School of Medicine will remember the 2015 donors to the body donor program during a memorial service at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the atrium of the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Medical and Science Building.

This is the 12th year of the memorial service that honors family members by recognizing the contribution of their loved ones who gave a special gift to the study of medicine. Students from the medical, physician assistant, occupational therapy and physical therapy programs along with faculty and staff will share testimonials and their appreciation to family members in attendance.

“The body donation program’s memorial service is an important opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to show our appreciation for our donors’ selfless gifts. The service also allows us to honor the family and friends who supported their loved one’s wishes,” said Sara Bird, coordinator of USD’s body donor program.

The Sanford School of Medicine and the School of Health Sciences rely on the voluntary donation of bodies for medical and other professional health programs. Body donations are crucial in teaching gross anatomy as the foundation for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, occupational and physical therapists, and paramedics.

"The anatomy laboratory is a unique educational experience, and the memorial service is an integral aspect of that experience," said Dr. Stuart Inglis, director of medical anatomical laboratories. "Students have an opportunity to express their gratitude to the donors’ families and to gain an appreciation of the rich and fulfilling lives that these people have led."

Human Resources to Hold Employee Fair

Human Resources is excited to announce its first annual Employee Benefit/Wellness Fair Monday, Oct. 17 in the MUC Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for our employees to visit with professional benefit vendors as well as ask questions about any benefits or wellness opportunities that may be of interest to you.

Vendors include: Bureau of Human Resources, AFLAC, South Dakota Retirement System, Supplemental Retirement System, Delta Dental, Community Credit Counseling LLS, Dakotacare, Health Management Partners, Discovery Benefits, Horace Mann, New York Life Insurance, Department of Social Services, USD Wellness Center, Rensberger Financial Services, Risty Benefits, USD Childcare Center, USD Headstart, Sanford Profile, USD Dental Hygiene and the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce.

The South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) and the SDRS Supplemental Retirement System will hold presentations throughout the day. SDRS will also be available for individual counseling sessions.

The first 25 employees to attend will receive a free USD T-shirt. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Attendance to the Benefits/Wellness Fair will also be eligible for Wellness Points.

For questions please contact the Human Resources office at 605-677-5671.

Mark your calendars to attend USD President James W. Abbott’s State of the University address on Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. in Aalfs Auditorium.
Campus Upgrades and Department Moves
Welcome Students Back to Campus

Construction and maintenance crews stayed busy over the summer and finished more than 20 projects on the Vermillion and Sioux Falls campuses of the University of South Dakota.

The biggest project was the Sanford Coyote Sport Center (SCSC), which includes a basketball and volleyball arena with seating for 6,000 along with practice courts, locker rooms, a strength training facility classroom, clinic and research space. It’s adjacent to new space that now houses the Division of Kinesiology and Sport Management and offices for the basketball and volleyball coaches and the athletic administration. The occupational therapy and physical therapy will move into the SCSC next summer.

The added space allowed the math department to relocate from Dakota Hall to Patterson Hall and communication studies to move from Beacom Hall to Dakota Hall. Postal services also moved to the Continuing Education Building.

Among the other projects that have been completed or soon will be:

- New restroom and storage building for the new track and soccer complex.
- New roof on the South Dakota Union.
- Updates to classroom 205 in the I.D. Weeks Library.
- In Noteboom Hall, replacement of the chiller and pumps as well as improvements to building ventilation; replacement of the existing single-pane windows on the south side with energy efficient windows; replacement of existing flooring on the first floor with sheet vinyl; some existing furniture replaced with hospital-grade furniture.
- Roof repairs and repaint the cupolas on Old Main.
- Upgrade of DakotaDome exterior lights on buildings with LED light fixtures.
- Replacement of the flooring in wing B of Coyote Village with carpet tiles.
- Renovation of the laundry and electrical room in Coyote Village.
- On the Sioux Falls campus, replacement of the carpet in all offices, hallways, classrooms and conference rooms of the Wegner Health Science Center.

Oscar Howe Lecture to Feature Montana Artist

The University Art Galleries at the University of South Dakota will host renowned international artist Joyce Growing Thunder Fogarty as the guest for the 27th annual Oscar Howe Memorial Lecture.

Fogarty is a full-blood Assiniboine (Nakoda) and Sioux (Dakota) from the Fort Peck reservation in northeastern Montana. She will give an artist lecture about her work and career beginning at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15 at Farber Hall in Old Main.

As a master beadworker and porcupine quill worker, Fogarty has been considered the grand matriarch of traditional Plains artwork. In 1985, she entered the SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market and received best of show, an honor she repeated the two following years, something never done before at the market. Fogarty has participated in Indian Market for 30 years and received multiple other awards, including the SWAIA Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to American Indian art.

Fogarty has pieces in private collections as well as permanent collections in many museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Ralph T. Coe Collection), the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the Joslyn Art Museum.

Her work was recently featured in the traveling international exhibition The Plains Indians: Artist of Earth and Sky and national exhibitions at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the Denver Art Museum. She currently has a doll showing in an exhibit at the Fenimore Art Museum (Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Collection).

Thursday’s lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow in the Oscar Howe Gallery, Room 116 in Old Main. The Oscar Howe Memorial Lecture is one of the kickoff events to the 29th annual Northern Plains Indian Art Market weekend.
McKelvey Named August Employee of the Month

Donna McKelvey, facilities worker for the Lee Med building, has been named Employee of the Month for August.

McKelvey was nominated by Scot Ouellette, Ph.D, an assistant professor of basic biomedical sciences for her willingness to go the extra mile.

“Donna is by far the hardest working individual I have met,” Ouellette said in his nomination letter, praising her reliability, dependability, accountability and consistency. “She has the rather thankless job of cleaning up after others. Nevertheless, she performs her job with maximum effort to ensure that our floor of the Lee Med building is always spotless.”

McKelvey has worked for USD for 12 years. She worked in the South Dakota Union building for four years before moving to the medical school, where she has worked for the past eight years.

“I enjoy it and I think that is mostly due to the awesome group of staff that I clean for,” McKelvey said about her job.

“She is a genial individual and a kind person,” Ouellette said. “In my mind, she should be the employee of the month every month.”

Do you know someone who should be USD’s Employee of the Month? Nominate him or her with the CSA Employee of the Month form at http://sites.usd.edu/csac/.

Nikki’s Run Promotes Suicide Awareness

Nikki’s Fund, in partnership with the Lost and Found student organization at the University of South Dakota, held the annual Nikki’s 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 10, as part of the National Suicide Prevention Week.

Since its inception in 2006, the event has raised more than $40,000 for USD students, said Janine Harris, who founded Nikki’s Fund in memory of her daughter, Nicole Vallie Harris. She died from suicide on June 15, 2005.

The funds have helped students in need of medical assistance, lab work, medication and diagnostic testing for mental health concerns, as well as travel costs to and from appointments, said Debra Brockberg, director of the USD Student Counseling Center. "Over the years, Nikki’s Fund and the Nikki’s 5K Run/Walk have provided great support to USD students struggling with mental health-related concerns, including suicidal thoughts and intent,” she said.

The Lost and Found organization at USD promotes mental health awareness while ending the stigma of depression, anxiety and suicide, said president Logan Anderson. “Nikki’s 5K represents this mission and is very important to us,” he said.

Prizes were awarded to first-place finishers in the male and female categories of 15 and under, 16 to 25 years old, 26 to 54 years old and 55 and over. Prizes were also awarded to the individuals and teams who reach certain fundraising benchmarks. For more information about Nikki’s Fund or to make a donation, please call 670-8740 or email nikki’s fund84@gmail.com.
Three Staffers Recognized for Work with Students

One of the nation’s top student affairs professional organizations has honored three University of South Dakota staff members for their contributions to campus.

Kimberly Grieve, Ph.D., vice president of student services and dean of students, received the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) IV-W James J. Rhatigan Outstanding Dean Award, given to a senior student affairs officer in the West region.

Laura Roof, sorority and fraternity life director, received the NASPA IV-W Rising Star New Professional Award, given to one person in the state.

And Nick Bratvold, a graduate student in the adult and higher education program, was awarded the NASPA IV-W Rising Star Award for Graduate Students, given to a graduate student from each state who plans to pursue a career in student affairs.

Charlie's Opens in Downtown Vermillion

University of South Dakota students, faculty and fans have a new source for apparel, gifts, souvenirs and other items emblazoned with the USD logos.

Charlie’s has opened in downtown Vermillion at 2 E. Main St. The retail store, named after mascot Charlie Coyote, will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday, with extended hours planned during Dakota Days and other major events.

“The door was barely unlocked this morning before customers started arriving,” Tena Haraldson, USD director of marketing, said Thursday. “People have been so excited to have this shopping experience right here in Vermillion. The word is spreading fast.”

The marketing office also jointly runs Jack & Charlie’s in The Empire Mall in Sioux Falls with South Dakota State University. The addition of Charlie’s will give USD a place to sell unique items that are geared toward students, family members, alumni and fans who live in or visit Vermillion.

“We get a lot of requests for sizes that fit adults, along with gift items and things for kids and pets,” Haraldson said. “We also have a good selection of tailgate items, from tents and chairs to flags, coolers, drinkware and other decor.”

One thing Charlie’s won’t sell is books. Barnes & Noble remains the official bookstore of USD in the Muenster University Center. B&N also sells its own selection of USD clothing and other items.

“Sales at B&N and at both Charlie’s stores will support USD student scholarships in two ways: through royalties on the USD logo and through store profits.

“We hope the expanded offerings will get more red USD clothing on our fans,” Haraldson said. “For us, every red USD T-shirt is a walking billboard advertising Coyote pride.”

On social media, visit Facebook.com/USDCharlieStore and Twitter.com/USDCharlieStore.

The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Co. recently purchased the building, and USD’s marketing office rented about 3,400 square feet in the lower level.
Graduate Advising Coordinator Brittany Wagner has worked at the University of South Dakota for more than a year, and enjoys the location and the strong, tight-knit community USD and Vermillion share.

Even before USD, Wagner had been working in higher education at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky as the assistant director of retention programs. Wagner attended the University of North Dakota, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management and a Master of Business Administration.

Wagner and her husband, Doug, both decided to work at USD because they sought the opportunity to grow in their career fields. What kept Wagner here was the sense of community exhibited at USD and around Vermillion, and the opportunities she was able to pursue upon taking the position.

“We both had decided that we were sort of ready for a different challenge, and that’s why we started to search for jobs, and we found USD,” Wagner said. “We wanted a place where we could call home, settle a little bit, and we found USD had all of those things.”

As the graduate advising coordinator, Wagner tackles many different tasks that aren’t limited to advising students. She works with all of the graduate program directors on policies, helps with the graduate catalog for the graduate programs, advises students in the master of arts and disciplinary studies program and assists with registration reports.

Though the graduate school office is small (consisting of the graduate dean, the graduate registration coordinator and Wagner), they serve a large student body at USD, as the graduate student population is around 20-25 percent.

“You really have to be well-rounded in our office,” Wagner said. “You have to know about policy and registration and advising. You have to know all of the graduate programs. We have upwards of 70 programs, and that’s always growing. We always have to be on top of changes in those programs so we can help both students in the programs as well as the program directors.”

Wagner said what she likes most about her job is the “variety and getting to know all of the graduate programs.”

“I like that I don’t just work with one program, but I have interaction and communication with all of our graduate programs,” Wagner said. “It’s something new every day—it’s always a challenge because there’s so much to know.”

While being part of a big position at USD and advising and helping with a large group on campus, Wagner said it is exactly what she expected while looking for a job in the Midwest that could grow her professionally. Not only that, but the way the community around USD and Vermillion is supportive of each other was another plus.

“I think sometimes in higher education people will move for a job and maybe they don’t like the community, but I found such a perfect match here,” Wagner said. “We wanted everything—we wanted location and wanted positions that we could grow in. I think that’s exactly what I found here.”

Wagner also enjoys being outdoors, gardening and playing with her dog, having friends over for entertainment, traveling to visit her family and spending weekends with her husband traveling to new places.
The University of South Dakota is introducing an International Office (IO) in order to combine international admissions, recruiting and student services.

"Until the creation of the International Office, the responsibilities related to recruiting, admissions and current students were housed in three different areas," said Susan Hackemer, Director of the International Office at USD. Now, all aspects from recruiting to personal adjustment into a new culture are all included in the IO.

The IO offers programs designed to assist new international students in becoming accustomed to the new culture. The office continues to use a separate orientation program for international students and hosts weekly events and small trips for the students to socialize with one another.

USD’s International Office is also now responsible for the Intensive English Program. The university is already an approved English language provider for several Middle Eastern countries, but the IO is always actively looking to find other international students in search of English training.

In recruiting efforts, the IO is developing a new social media presence specifically targeting international prospective students. The office is also looking to begin recruiting at community colleges with large international student populations in order to offer a transfer for students to complete four year degrees.

“We appreciate the USD community for all the support and patience we’ve received throughout the development of the new office,” said Hackemer.

The International Office is located in ID Weeks room 103.

Residence Halls Switch to Eduroam Wireless Network

USD’s Information Technology department is switching from SDSecure to the Eduroam wireless network in all the residence halls, but SDSecure will still be available on campus.

Eduroam is a world-wide wireless network that allows students, faculty and staff to visit other institutions with Eduroam and connect to the wireless network without having to request a user name and password. USD students, faculty and staff will be able to connect to Eduroam at any other institution that is part of the network. SDSecure and Eduroam are the same speed and have a very similar login.

“Logging into Eduroam is very similar to connecting to SDSecure,” Dave Everding, desktop team leader at USD, said. The login will be the same as with SDSecure but adding @usd.edu at the end. “The reason for adding @usd.edu is to tell Eduroam which institution we belong to.”
The University of South Dakota will receive nearly $2 million as part of a National Science Foundation effort to research the intersection of food, energy and water systems.

USD researchers will work on the project with colleagues from lead institution Montana State University and the University of Wyoming. They will examine the consequences of an economy based on bioenergy and "carbon capture and sequestration." That is the process of capturing carbon dioxide so that levels of the greenhouse gas in the atmosphere in the Upper Missouri River Basin are reduced.

“The goal is to explore the impacts that a transition to a bioenergy economy would have on the Upper Missouri River Basin. Such a change might help to reduce carbon pollution and minimize conflicts with food security and clean energy production priorities, providing for a sustainable future for the region,” said Dave Swanson, Ph.D., professor in USD’s biology department, director of the Missouri River Institute and co-principal investigator with Meghann Jarchow, Ph.D., USD assistant biology professor and coordinator of its sustainability program. Associate biology professors Mark Dixon, Ph.D., and Jake Kerby, Ph.D., will also contribute.

The NSF recently made 11 Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Track II grants to institutions across the national totaling $55 million. USD’s share of $1.86 million over four years will fund research related to the grant topic and will also fund two new faculty members in biology. These faculty will support a new doctorate program in sustainability, which the grant will also fund.

USD researchers will be involved in four studies within the overall project:

First, they will model current and projected future trends in land-use in the Upper Missouri River Basin (UMRB), such as growing more biofuel crops.

Second, they will study how these land-use trends interact with other changes in the region, such as increases in hydraulic fracking and reductions in Conservation Reserve Program acreages, to affect water quality and bird and amphibian diversity.

Third, they will survey residents in the UMRB to map how people value the land and its uses across the basin and whether those values vary by geographic region.

Finally, the researchers will convene focus groups of diverse stakeholders across the region to identify what people think is critical to moving toward a desirable and sustainable future in the UMRB, with a specific focus on land uses and human health and well-being.

“It is our hope that this research will help inform future research and policy in the region regarding how we manage food and energy production while still protecting our water,” Jarchow said.